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Rec'd: SEPTEMBER 14, 1962

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 672, SEPTEMBER 14, 1 PM

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GERMAN AMBASSADOR KROLL, AFTER LENGTHY FRIENDLY CONVERSATION WITH KHRUSHCHEV, IS CONVINCED THAT LATTER PLANS TO PROCEED WITH PEACE TREATY SHORTLY AFTER US ELECTIONS. KHRUSHCHEV SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO DELAY ACTION SINCE THE REALLY IMPORTANT DIFFICULTY, I. E. FLOW OF REFUGEES, WAS SOLVED BY THE WALL. HE THEREFORE PREPARED HOLD OFF UNTIL NOVEMBER. MEANTIME, HE SAID, SOVIETS WILL BEGIN TO PREPARE PUBLIC OPINION FOR SIGNATURE PEACE TREATY, ALL DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN FULLY PREPARED. TERMS OF THE PEACE TREATY WILL MAKE CONTINUATION WESTERN OCCUPATION BERLIN QUITE IMPOSSIBLE. SHOULD WESTERN POWERS UNDERTAKE SOME ACTION WHICH LEADS TO RISK OF WAR, SOVIETS WILL GO TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL. KHRUSHCHEV SAID HE FULLY INFORMED ON WEST'S CONTINGENCY PLANNING. BUT KHRUSHCHEV REITERATED THAT WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION AND WESTERN LEADERS SO ANXIOUS TO AVOID WAR THEY WILL FIND SOME WAY TO LIVE WITH SITUATION.

IT SEEMED CLEAR TO KROLL THAT KHRUSHCHEV DOES NOT REPEAT NOT REALLY BELIEVE WESTERN LEADERS ASSERTIONS OF READINESS TO DEFEND POSITIONS IN WEST BERLIN EVEN AT RISK OF WAR.

KROLL HAS THE IMPRESSION-WHICH COINCIDES WITH OTHER INDICATIONS WE HAVE ALREADY NOTED THAT SOVIET PROGRAM OF ACTIONS LEADING TO SIGNATURE OF PEACE TREATY WILL BEGIN TO FLOW SHORTLY AFTER U.S. CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS ON A TIME TABLE WHICH WOULD PERMIT

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-2- 672, SEPTEMBER 14, 1 PM, FROM MOSCOW

RECOURSE TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, IF SUCH SHOULD BE REQUIRE,
WHILE THE PRESENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS STILL IN SESSION.

KROLL FOUND KHRUSHCHEV IN EXCELLENT HEALTH, RELAXED AND CONFIDENT.

MCSWEENEY

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